

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method of surface treatment of a titanium metal comprising  
plasma carburizing in an atmosphere comprising a carburizing gas having a composition thereof adjusted such that an (H/C) weight ratio of hydrogen atoms (H) to carbon atoms (C) is  $1 \leq H/C \leq 9$  at a pressure of 13-400 Pa and a temperature of 400-690 °C.
  
2. (Currently amended) A method of surface treatment of a titanium metal comprising heating the titanium metal to a temperature of 400-690 °C in a cleaning gas atmosphere containing hydrogen gas,  
subjecting the surface of the titanium metal to cleaning by applying a DC voltage of 200-1500 V, and  
plasma carburizing in an atmosphere comprising a carburizing gas having a composition thereof adjusted such that an (H/C) weight ratio of hydrogen atoms (H) to carbon atoms (C) is  $1 \leq H/C \leq 9$  at a pressure of 13-400 Pa and a temperature of 400-690 °C.